

OBJECTIVE TWO: Define the importance of observing for and following the interests of children when planning learning activities.

ACTIVITY: Child led learning

Resource: Center for Early Literacy Learning (CELL)

View the video: *'Interests lead to learning'* (11 minutes.) After viewing the video, give 3 examples of what you observed as children's interests, and describe the specific behavior that you saw. Then, thinking about your role as a teacher in setting up the environment for learning, give some specific examples of how could you follow up on these interests in the following ways:

- Choosing literacy materials
- Setting up dramatic play scenarios
- Creating hands on activities related to pre-math skills

Next, using the CELL *Early Childhood Classroom Interests Tool* (for either Infant/Toddler, or Preschool), observe 2 children during 2 different play periods and indicate their areas of interests on the matrix (feel free to add additional areas if needed). Then, choose 2 of the interest areas you observed, and give an example of a teacher planned activity for each to follow up on the child's interests. Repeat for 2nd child. Summarize by explaining the benefits of using child interest as the starting point for activity planning.

Criteria	Accomplished	Emerging	Attempted
3 examples from the video, with descriptions of specific behavior	3 appropriate examples with detailed descriptions of specific behavior	2 examples with descriptions of behavior	1 example of behavior with some description of behavior
Examples of follow up activities for interests from video	Detailed and appropriate examples from each of the three content areas	Some examples from at least 2 content areas	1 – 2 examples from some content areas
Completed Tool for 2 children, with examples of further planned activities	Completed Tool, with detailed and appropriate examples of further planned activities	Nearly completed Tool, with some examples of further planning	Some information included in Tool, with reference to further planning.
Summary: benefits of using child interest in planning	Detailed summary of benefits, with appropriate examples	Description of benefits with some examples	Reference to benefits; few examples

Comments: